Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled) A method comprising:

attempting to authorize a call from a user made to a number;

routing the call, after the call is authorized, to a remote location; and

2. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 further comprising collecting information related to the user to be used in authorizing the user.

3. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 further comprising collecting information related to the user to be used in authorizing the user.

4. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 further comprising verifying the validity of the destination.

5. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 further comprising streaming the media content from the user and to the destination after the call signaling is set up.

6. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 in which the call signaling uses an H.323 routing protocol.

7. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 in which the call signaling uses a session initiation protocol.

8. (Canceled) An article comprising a machine-readable medium which contains machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

attempt to authorize a call from a user made to a number;

route the call, after the call is authorized, to a remote location; and

set up call signaling at the remote location between the user and a destination of the call so that media content of the call flows between the user and the destination but not through the remote location.

9. (Canceled) The article of claim 8 further causing a machine to collect information related to the user to be used in authorizing the user.

10. (Canceled) The article of claim 8 further causing a machine to verify the validity of the destination.

11. (Canceled) The article of claim 8 further causing a machine to track usage of a calling card used by the user to make the call.

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12. (Canceled) The article of claim 8 further causing a machine to stream the media content from the user and to the destination after the call signaling is set up.

13. (Canceled) The article of claim 8 in which the call signaling uses an H.323 routing protocol.

14. (Canceled) The article of claim 8 in which the call signaling uses a session initiation protocol.

15. (Canceled) A system comprising:

an authorizing mechanism configured to attempt to authorize a call from a user made to a number; and

a proxy server configured to route the call, after the call is authorized by the authorization mechanism, to a remote server included at a location remote from the authorization mechanism and configured to set up call signaling between the user and a destination of the call so that media content of the call flows between the user and the destination but not through the location.

16. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 further comprising an inbound mechanism configured to receive the call and to communicate with the authorization mechanism.

17. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 further comprising an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) mechanism configured to collect information related to the user to be used in authorizing the user.

18. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 further comprising a plurality of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) mechanisms, each of the plurality of VOIP mechanism configured to receive a call made to a different number.

19. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 in which the remote server is also configured to verify the validity of the destination.

20. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 in which the remote server is also configured to track usage of a calling card used by the user to make the call.

21. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 further comprising a gateway mechanism configured to stream the media content from the user and to the destination after the remote server sets up the call signaling.

22. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 in which the proxy server sets up the call signaling using an H.323 routing protocol.

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23. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 in which the proxy server sets up the call signaling using a session initiation protocol.

24. (Canceled) The system of claim 15 in which the user makes the call using a calling card.

25. (Canceled) A system comprising:

an inbound gateway mechanism configured to receive a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) call made by a user across a network;

a gathering mechanism configured to communicate with the inbound gateway mechanism and to gather information related to the VOIP call from the user;

an authentication mechanism configured to authenticate the user based at least on the information and on stored information accessible by the authentication mechanism;

an outbound gateway mechanism configured to communicate with a destination of the VOIP call; and

a server mechanism configured to, once the authentication mechanism authenticates the user, set up call signaling with the inbound gateway mechanism, to set up call signaling with the outbound gateway mechanism, and to instruct the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism to stream media content related to the VOIP call to each other.

26. (Canceled) The system of the claim 29 further comprising:

an inbound network including the inbound gateway mechanism and the gathering mechanism and the gathering mechanism, and

an outbound network at a remote location from the inbound network and including the outbound gateway mechanism.

27. (Canceled) The system of claim 29 in which the inbound network also includes the authentication mechanism.

28. (Canceled) The system of claim 29 further comprising a customer network at a location remote from the inbound network and the outbound network and including the authentication mechanism.

29. (Canceled) A system comprising:

an inbound gateway mechanism operable to receive a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) call;

a gathering mechanism configured to communicate with the inbound gateway mechanism and to gather information associated with the VOIP call;

an authentication mechanism configured to authenticate a user associated with the call based at least in part on the information associated with the VOIP call and stored information accessible by the authentication mechanism;

an outbound gateway mechanism configured to communicate with a destination of the VOIP call;

a server mechanism configured to set up call signaling with the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism, and to instruct the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism to stream media content related to the VOIP call to each other; and

an inbound proxy mechanism communicably located between the inbound gateway mechanism and the server mechanism and the server mechanism, wherein the inbound proxy mechanism is configured to communicate with the inbound gateway mechanism and the server mechanism.

30. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first border network, wherein the first border network includes:

an inbound gateway mechanism operable to receive a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) call; and

a gathering mechanism configured to communicate with the inbound gateway mechanism and to gather information associated with the VOIP call;

an authentication mechanism outside the first network and configured to authenticate a user associated with the call based at least in part on the information associated with the VOIP call and stored information accessible by the authentication mechanism;

a second border network, wherein the second border network includes:

an outbound gateway mechanism configured to communicate with a destination of the VOIP call; and

a server mechanism outside the first network and outside the second network configured to set up call signaling with the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism, and to instruct the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism to stream media content related to the VOIP call to each other; and

~~an outbound proxy mechanism located between the outbound gateway mechanism and the server mechanism and configured to communicate with the outbound gateway mechanism and with the server mechanism~~.

31. (Canceled) The system of claim 29 in which the gathering mechanism includes an interactive voice response mechanism.

32. (Canceled) The system of claim 29 in which the authentication mechanism includes a radius server.

33. (Canceled) The system of claim 29 in which the server mechanism is also configured to maintain control of the VOIP call while the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism stream the media content to each other.

34. (Canceled) The system of claim 29 in which the server mechanism includes an H. 323 server.

35. (Canceled) The system of claim 29 in which the server mechanism includes a SIP server.

36. (Canceled) The system of claim 29 in which the user makes the VOIP call using a calling card and the information gathered by the gathering mechanism includes an identifier associated with the calling card.

37. (Canceled) A system comprising:

an inbound gateway mechanism operable to receive a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) call;

a gathering mechanism configured to communicate with the inbound gateway mechanism and to gather information associated with the VOIP call;

an authentication mechanism configured to authenticate a user associated with the call based at least in part on the information associated with the VOIP call and stored information accessible by the authentication mechanism;

an outbound gateway mechanism configured to communicate with a destination of the VOIP call;

a server mechanism configured to set up call signaling with the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism, and to instruct the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism to stream media content related to the VOIP call to each other; and

in which the information includes a telephone number and the stored information includes an indication of telephone numbers that the user may not call.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 in which the gathering mechanism includes an interactive voice response mechanism.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 in which the authentication mechanism includes a radius server.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 in which the server mechanism is also configured to maintain control of the VOIP call while the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism stream the media content to each other.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 in which the server mechanism includes an H. 323 server.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 in which the server mechanism includes a SIP server.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 in which the user makes the VOIP call using a calling card and the information gathered by the gathering mechanism includes an identifier associated with the calling card.

44. (Canceled) The system of the claim 30 further comprising:

an inbound network including the inbound gateway mechanism and the gathering mechanism and the gathering mechanism, and

an outbound network at a remote location from the inbound network and including the outbound gateway mechanism.

45. (Canceled) The system of claim 30 in which the inbound network also includes the authentication mechanism.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the authentication system is part of a customer network ~~further comprising a customer network at a location remote from the inbound network and the outbound network and including the authentication mechanism~~.

47. (Canceled) The system of claim 37 in which the gathering mechanism includes an interactive voice response mechanism.

48. (Canceled) The system of claim 37 in which the authentication mechanism includes a radius server.

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49. (Canceled) The system of claim 37 in which the server mechanism is also configured to maintain control of the VOIP call while the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism stream the media content to each other.

50. (Canceled) The system of claim 37 in which the server mechanism includes an H. 323 server.

51. (Canceled) The system of claim 37 in which the server mechanism includes a SIP server.

52. (Canceled) The system of claim 37 in which the user makes the VOIP call using a calling card and the information gathered by the gathering mechanism includes an identifier associated with the calling card.

53. (Canceled) The system of the claim 37 further comprising:

an inbound network including the inbound gateway mechanism and the gathering mechanism and the gathering mechanism, and

an outbound network at a remote location from the inbound network and including the outbound gateway mechanism.

54. (Canceled) The system of claim 37 in which the inbound network also includes the authentication mechanism.

55. (Canceled) The system of claim 37 further comprising a customer network at a location remote from the inbound network and the outbound network and including the authentication mechanism.

56. (New) A multi-network access method, the method comprising:

providing a network, wherein the network is local to a first accessing device, and wherein the network includes:

an inbound gateway; and

an interactive voice response system communicably coupled to the inbound gateway;

receiving a communication request from the first accessing device at the inbound gateway, wherein the communication request indicates a communication destination associated with a second accessing device;

connecting the first accessing device to the interactive voice response system, wherein information associated with the communication request is gathered; and

providing an authentication packet including at least some information associated with the communication request to a server system outside the network, wherein the server system authenticates the communication request and directs a media content associated with the communication request to the second accessing device, and wherein the media content bypasses the server system.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the network is maintained by a first entity, and wherein the server system is maintained by a second entity.

58. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the network is a first border network, and wherein the media content passes from the first border network to a second border network local to the second accessing device.

59. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the server system includes a radius server.

60. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the server system maintains control of the VOIP call while the inbound gateway mechanism and the outbound gateway mechanism stream the media portion to each other.

61. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the server system includes an H. 323 server.

62. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the server system includes a SIP server.

63. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the user makes the VOIP call using a calling card and the information gathered by the gathering mechanism includes an identifier associated with the calling card.

64. (New) The method of claim 56, the method further comprising:

an inbound network including the inbound gateway mechanism and the gathering mechanism and the gathering mechanism, and

an outbound network at a remote location from the inbound network, wherein the outbound network includes an outbound gateway mechanism communicably coupled to the second accessing device.

65. (New) A method for facilitating third party support of telecommunication services, the method comprising:

providing a telecommunication services network;

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receiving a communication request from an inbound gateway outside the telecommunication services network, wherein the inbound gateway is part of a border network, and wherein the communication request includes an authentication packet;

based at least in part on the authentication packet, providing an authentication indication to the inbound gateway outside the telecommunication services network; and

directing a media content associated with the communication request to transfer from the inbound gateway outside the telecommunication services network to an outbound gateway outside the telecommunication services network, wherein the media content bypasses the telecommunication services network.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, the method further comprising:

gathering information related to the communication request, wherein at least a portion of the information collected is incorporated into the authentication packet.

67. (New) The method of claim 65, the method further comprising:

verifying the validity of a destination.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, the method further comprising streaming the media content from the user and to the destination after the call signaling is set up.

69. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein directing the media content associated with the communication request is done using a protocol selected from a group consisting of: a session initiation protocol and an H.323 routing protocol.

70. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the method further comprises:

registering an entity with the telecommunication services network, wherein the communication request is received from the entity, and wherein the entity is selected from a group consisting of: a number, a device, and a user.

71. (New) An system for third party servicing of calls, the system comprising:

a network, wherein the network includes a server associated with a computer readable medium, and wherein the computer readable medium includes instructions executable by the server to:

receive a communication request from an inbound gateway outside the network, wherein the communication request includes an authentication packet indicating an entity registered with the network;

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based at least in part on the authentication packet, providing an authentication indication to the inbound gateway outside the network; and

directing a media content associated with the communication request to transfer from the inbound gateway outside the network to an outbound gateway outside the network, wherein the media content bypasses the network.

72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the inbound gateway outside the network is electrically coupled to an interactive voice response system, and wherein the interactive voice response system is operable to receive information from the entity registered with the network and to provide information incorporated in the authentication packet.

73. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the communication request indicates a destination. and wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the server to:

determine a validity status associated with the destination.

74. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the entity registered with the network is a calling card.

75. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein directing the media content associated with the communication request is done using a protocol selected from a group consisting of: a session initiation protocol, and an H.323 routing protocol.

76. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the first border network and the second border networks are parts of the same network.

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